

In the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-12 (Cancelled).

Claim 13. (Currently amended) A method for producing laminated strength-reinforced window assembly, comprising the following steps:

providing a sheet of strength-reinforced transparent material having an upper sealing surface and a lower sealing surface, the upper sealing surface being disposed on the upper side of the strength-reinforced sheet, and the lower sealing surface being disposed on the lower side of the strength-reinforced sheet, the strength-reinforced material having a tensile strength, an impact resistance and an environmental resistance;

providing a first transparent windowpane sheet and a second transparent windowpane sheet, each of the first and second windowpane sheets having a respective tensile strength, a respective impact resistance and a respective environmental resistance, wherein at least one of the tensile strength, impact resistance and environmental resistance of the strength-reinforced material is significantly greater than either of the respective tensile strengths, impact resistances or environmental resistances of the first and second windowpane sheets;

positioning the first windowpane sheet against at least a part of the upper sealing surface, the overlap between them defining an upper junction, and positioning the second windowpane sheet against at least a part of the lower sealing surface, the overlap between them defining a lower junction;

pressing the windowpane sheets against the sheet of strength-reinforced material with sufficient force to produce a predetermined contact pressure throughout the upper and lower junctions;

heating the junctions to produce a predetermined temperature throughout the junctions; and

maintaining the predetermined contact pressure and the predetermined temperature until a diffusion bond is formed between the windowpane sheets and the sheet of strength-reinforced material throughout the junction.

Claim 14. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 13, wherein the step of pressing the windowpane sheets against the sheet of strength-reinforced material is performed before the step of heating the junctions.

Claim 15. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 13, wherein the step of heating the junctions is performed before the step of pressing the windowpane sheets against the sheet of strength-reinforced material.

Claim 16. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 13 wherein the steps of pressing the windowpane sheets against the sheet of strength-reinforced material and of heating the junctions are performed simultaneously.

Claim 17. (Currently amended) A method in accordance with claim 13, wherein during the step of heating the junctions, the respective temperatures of the sheets of strength-reinforced transparent material, the first transparent windowpane sheet and the second transparent windowpane sheet each remains below the corresponding glass transition temperature (TG) of the respective materials from which the respective sheets ~~are~~ is formed.

18. (Currently amended) A method in accordance with claim 13, wherein during the step of heating the junctions, the respective temperatures of the sheets of strength-reinforced transparent material, the first transparent windowpane sheet and the second transparent windowpane sheet each remains below the corresponding softening temperature (TS) of the respective materials from which the respective sheets ~~are~~ is formed.

Claims 19-20 (Cancelled).

Claim 21. (New) A method in accordance with claim 13, wherein the tensile strength of the strength-reinforced material is significantly greater than the tensile strength of the first windowpane sheet and the tensile strength of the second windowpane sheet.

Claim 22. (New) A method in accordance with claim 13, wherein the impact resistance of the strength-reinforced material is significantly greater than the impact resistance of the first windowpane sheet and the impact resistance of the second windowpane sheet.

Claim 23. (New) A method in accordance with claim 13:

wherein the environmental resistance of the strength-reinforced material is significantly greater than the environmental resistance of the first windowpane sheet and the environmental resistance of the second windowpane sheet; and

5 wherein the environmental resistance being compared between the strength-reinforced material, the first windowpane sheet and the second windowpane sheet is one of abrasion resistance, solvent resistance, resistance to high pH and resistance to low pH.